APPENDIX "B"

(*See p. 1134*)

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES POLICY AND PROGRAMS

SECOND REPORT OF STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE

JUNE 26, 1985

The Standing Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons on Official Languages Policy and Programs has the honour to present its

SECOND REPORT

Introduction

1. In accordance with its Order of Reference from the Senate dated Wednesday, March 27, 1985 and its Orders of Reference from the House of Commons dated Tuesday, March 20, 1984 and Tuesday, March 26, 1985, your Committee has examined the 1983 and 1984 Reports of the Commissioner of Official Languages.
2. Since February 5, 1985, the work of the Committee has comprised 15 public hearings. We have heard testimony from key witnesses such as the Commissioner of Official Languages, the President of the Treasury Board, the Secretary of State, the Chairman of the Public Service Commission and representatives of linguistic minority groups. We also heard from one expert. At a further stage in our hearings we questioned several departments and Crown corporations (the Department of Public Works, Canada Post Corporation, Air Canada) on the findings of the Commissioner's 1984 Report. The purpose of the initial meetings was to familiarize the Members, many of whom were either newly-elected or sitting for the first time on the Committee, with overall official languages policies and programs and with the federal institutions responsible for implementing them, as well as with the needs of official language communities. After completing this initial phase of its work, the Committee turned its attention to examining the 1984 Annual Report of the Commissioner of Official Languages.
3. The present report contains the Committee's preliminary observations and recommendations with respect to priorities for action arising out of its discussion of the Commissioner's Report. The Committee strongly affirms the need for a renewal of linguistic reform. In our view a strategy of concerted government action is required in order to ensure the full and vigorous application of the *Official Languages Act* and the linguistic provisions of the *Constitution Act 1982* by all federal institutions. Beyond legal compliance, we also believe it is necessary to ensure that official language minorities are afforded substantive protection and support through the concerted action of all governments and, wherever possible, the private sector.

I. THE ROLE OF FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS

Improved Coordination and Accountability

4. Your Committee believes that more overall direction is needed in the coordination of federal official languages policies and programs. We note the recommendation in the Commissioner's 1984 Report: "Government should consider bringing co-ordination of federal policies and programmes in the field of official languages more substantively within the purview of the Privy Council Office." Shortly thereafter, the Prime Minister announced in the House on March 27, 1985 that a committee would be formed of deputy ministers and senior civil servants under the auspices of the Privy Council Office. This committee was set up at the end of April, and given a mandate to study the Commissioner's recommendations and propose possible amendments to the *Official Languages Act*. The new committee consists of deputy ministers and senior civil servants from the Treasury Board, the departments of the Secretary of State and of Justice, and the Federal-Provincial Relations Office, under the chairmanship of a senior official in the Privy Council Office. In response to this undertaking,

   The Committee recommends that: (a) the committee of deputy ministers and senior officials created within the Privy Council Office in April 1985 be established on a permanent basis; and (b) that it be given a mandate to develop medium-term plans for the systematic compliance by all federal institutions with the terms of the *Official Languages Act* and the linguistic provisions of the *Constitution Act 1982*.

5. In carrying out their administrative duties, deputy ministers and heads of institutions are in a position to have a direct influence on the application of language policy, particularly as regards language of service, language of work and equitable participation. The achievements of senior officials in this area are in principle an element in the annual appraisal of their performance. However, your Committee believes that greater and more specific accountability is needed. Accordingly,